A

POETICAL CHRONOLOGY

OF

ENGLISH HISTORY,

FROM THE

CONQUEST.

For the Uſe of

CHILDREN.

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ADVERTISEMENT.

THE following is an attempt to render the chronology and ſucceſſion of the Kings of England familiar to the minds and memories of children; the date being included in the verſe. It is taken from Dr. Valpy's valuable poetical chronology; which being compoſed of lines of ten ſyllables, and

only the ſecond and fourth line in each verſe, rhyming; has been found rather too difficult for children to learn by heart.

If theſe reigns ſhould ſtill be thought too burdenſome for the memory of a child, the firſt verſe in each, will anſwer the principal end intended.

JUNE 13, 1800.

1066. WIL-

1066. WILLIAM
THE CONQUEROR.—Reign 20 Years.

A Thouſand years ~~threeſcore and ſix,~~
Since Chriſt our Saviour lay
In Bethl'em—does the period fix,
Of conqu'ring William's Sway.

and Sixty-six

The Norman band on Albion's coaſt,
Their bloody banners throw;
Whoſe dying King and vanquiſh'd hoſt
Exalt the haughty foe.

The curfew marks the cloſe of day,
So wills the victor proud;
Nor fire nor candle's friendly ray,
At eight o'clock's allow'd.

1087. WILLIAM RUFUS.—
Reign 13 Years.

ONE thouſand eighty-ſeven years,
The date of Rufus' reign,
Beholds the wretched Britons tears,
Bedew their iron chain.

Full

Full thirteen years they felt the ſmart
Of cruel William's reign;
At length by Tyrrel's fatal dart,
The gloomy tyrant's ſlain.

1100. HENRY I.—Reign 35 Years.

ELEVEN hundred years had paſs'd,
When Henry fill'd the throne;
In iron mold whoſe mind was caſt,
As in the ſequel ſhown.

His

His elder brother Robert's right
To reign, he overthrew;
Whoſe mournful ſtate, depriv'd of ſight
Theſe faithful annals ſhew.

Twice fourteen years in Cardiff's tower,
The hapleſs youth immur'd,
Beneath a cruel brother's power;
Theſe ſufferings endur'd.

1135. STEPHEN.—Reign 19 Years.
HOUSE OF BLOIS.

ELEVEN hundred thirty-five,
(Matilda's luckleſs hour)
Saw Stephen's uſurpation thrive,
And right o'ercome by power.

For

For ſhe, in blood the next did ſtand
To fair Britannia's throne;
And now beholds her bleeding land
In wars and tumults thrown.

Stephen was ſon of Adela, daughter of William the Conqueror. He uſurped the throne againſt the rights of Matilda, daughter of Henry Iſt, who was married to the Emperor Henry Vth, and afterwards to Geoffry Plantagenet, Count of Anjou.

1154. HENRY

1154. HENRY II.—Reign 35 Years.
PLANTAGENET RACE.

ELEVEN hundred fifty-four,
A ſecond Henry ſees;
Whoſe ſword compels Hibernia's ſhore,
To bow to his decrees.

To Roſamond in fragrant bower,
Th' enamour'd monarch flies;
But O! queen Elinor, thy power,
Her envied charms defies.

Arm'd with the fatal ſilken clue,*
In evil hour ſhe hies;
Drink, drink, (ſhe cries) this cup, thy due,
The favourite drinks, and dies.

How Henry was to Becket's ſhine,
By furious monks led on,
In penance, ſhews with art divine,
Thy page, O Lyttelton!

Stephen adopted Henry, Duke of Normandy, Son of Martilda the Empreſs, and Geoffry Plantagenet.

Hence the Plantagenet race.

* This part of Roſamond's ſtory is ſuppoſed to be fabulous.

1189. RICHARD I.—Reign 10 Years.

ELEVEN centuries had roll'd,
And eighty-nine more years,
When Richard Cœur de Lion, bold
In enterprize appears.

1199. JOHN.—Reign 17 Years.

NEAR twice ſix centuries were gone,
When Arthur, Richard's heir,
Was baniſh'd by his uncle John,
Who fill'd the regal chair.

Perfidious

Perfidious bloody wretch! the band
Of Barons, brave and wiſe,
From tyranny ſhall free the land,
Whoſe yoke for vengeance cries.

Their phalanx firm, obliges thee
In freedom's cauſe to join;
The charter of fair liberty,
At Runnymede to ſign.

John was brother of Richard Iſt. Arthur Duke of Brittany, had been appointed heir by Richard Iſt. his uncle. He was ſon of Geoffry, eldeſt brother of Richard.

1216. HENRY III.—Reign 56 Years.

TWELVE hundred years and ſixteen
more,
Was the third Henry's date
Of Royalty—but ill he bore
The heavy cares of ſtate.

No

No ſhining talents he poſſeſs'd,
Good-natur'd, weak, was he;
No inborn claim his mind expreſs'd
Fair England's King to be.

1272. EDWARD I.—Reign 35 Years.

TWELVE hundred ſeventy-two, the
year
Of brave King Edward's reign;
~~Convey'd the tidings to his ear,~~
On Syria's parching plain.
His

The tidings reached the monarch's ear

His feelings to compaſſion clos'd,
Debas'd the hero's name;
Oh, ruthleſs King! ſee Wallace' ghoſt,
Revengeful, haunt thy fame.

The muſes too, ſhall rue the hour
When Edward doom'd to death
Thy bards, O Cambria! and deplore
Llewellyn's parting breath.

1307. EDWARD II.—Reign 20 Years

IN thirteen hundred ſeven the crown
A ſecond Edward's head
Encircles—but what furies frown,
And haunt his bridal bed!

How

How echoes Berkely's flinty tower
His agonizing cries,
When prone beneath his consort's power,
A cruel death he dies.

1327. EDWARD III.—Reign 50 Years.

O'ER thirteen cent'ries time had roll'd
And twenty ſeven more years,
When the third Edward (brave and bold
In martial deeds) appears.

Yet

Yet to thy bleeding land, what ills
From falſe ambition flow;
If victory her legions kills,
How ſwells the orphan's woe.

Thy trophies rear'd on Crecy's plain,
Calm reaſon's eye ſurveys;
Are theſe the glory of his reign,
Which fierce contentions raiſe?

Yet truth proclaims the hero's praiſe,
Who trac'd the glorious ſcheme
Of laws, which in theſe later days,
No traitor dares blaſpheme.

Soft pity weeps, while records tell
How Edward's joys are fled:
In age the faded garland fell,
Which bound his youthful head.

His Queen Philippa yields her breath,
And low the black prince* lies;
Nor finds the mourning King, in death,
A friend to close his eyes.

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* The Prince of Wales, Son of Edward III. died in 1376, in the forty-sixth year of his age, deeply lamented by the Nation. His Son was Richard II.

1377. RICHARD II.—Reign 22 Years.

IN thirteen hundred ſeventy-ſeven,
~~A Richard climbs the throne;~~
~~But O! to worth, how ſlight a claim~~
~~Has anceſtry alone.~~

A second Richard reigns
The fairest lineage under Heaven
Not peace nor honor gains

Tho' ſprung from ſuch a noble ſoil,
(The ſable hero's ſon,
Who in a life of glorious toil,
The people's hearts had won.)

Thoſe ſacred rights he ſwore to keep,
He labour'd to deſtroy;
Behold a nation doom'd to weep
The follies of a boy!

Dragg'd from his throne, in Pomfret's tower,
He groan'd his hours away;
Till prone beneath a rebel's power
A breathleſs corpſe he lay.

1399. HENRY IV.—Reign 14 Years.
HOUSE OF LANCASTER.

IN thirteen hundred ninety-nine,
A Henry climbs the throne;
The firſt of the Lancaſtrian line,
The fourth that name does own.

But in this bold uſurper's reign,
What miſchiefs dire await
The Land, and darken all the plain
With diſcord, rage and hate.

For now the roſes red and white
Begin their fatal ſtrife:
And brothers againſt brothers fight,
Or take their father's life.

Henry, ſurnamed Bolingbroke, claimed the crown by lineal deſcent, being the Son of John of Gaunt, third Son of Edward IIId.

1413. HENRY V.—Reign 9 Years.

THE fourteenth century ~~was~~ *had* paſs'd,
And thirteen added years,
When the fifth Harry reign'd--who faſt
Remov'd his ſubjects' fears.

For

For in his youth too much inclin'd
To pleaſure, it afforded
Few hopes that he poſſeſs'd a mind
Of luſtre, ſcarce recorded.

Yet hiſtory's page, ſtill ſtain'd with blood,
Exalts the hero's name;
Before an hoſt of foes he ſtood,
Which mock'd his haughty claim

To wear the Crown of France—yet fate
Allow'd his little band
To overcome a foreign ſtate,
And win the promis'd land.

In

In nine ſhort years, his reign no more
Continues to adorn
The annals of the ſtate—with tears
Their loſs his ſubjects mourn.

1422. HENRY VI.—Reign 39 Years.

IN fourteen hundred twenty-two,
The crown (an infant's toy)
On the ſixth Henry's head we view;
Which proves a fleeting joy.
Thou

Thou know'ſt not, gentle babe, the fate
That marks thy future years;
A King or priſoner of ſtate,
At Warwick's will appears.

The white roſe rears its tow'ring head,
And withers all thy root,
Thy ſon, fair bloſſom of the red,
Is trodden under foot.

Thy father's meed the crown of France
By thee is thrown away;
And ſoon, thine own inheritance
To York ſhall fall a prey.

1461. EDWARD IV.—Reign 22 Years.
HOUSE OF YORK.

YEAR fourteen hundred ſixty-one
Marks the fourth Edward's reign;
Thus wayward fate exalts the ſon
Of York—in battle ſlain.

With

With pain the faithful pen records
The vices of his reign,
In which a numerous band of Lords
(The late King's friends) are ſlain.

EDWARD was Son of the Duke of York, who, in the preceding reign, aſſerted his right to the throne, and was ſlain in the battle of Wakefield.—He was deſcended, by the Mother's ſide, from Lionel, one of the Sons of Edward III, while the reigning King was deſcended from John of Gaunt, a Son of the ſame King, but younger than Lionel.—The enſign of the Duke was a white, that of the King a red roſe: this gave the name to the two houſes.

1483. EDWARD V.—Reign 2 Months.

EDWARD the fifth, that unblown flower,
Ambition's hand laid low;
While ſtretch'd in ſleep within the tower,
Approach'd the murd'rous foe.

1483. RICHARD

1483. RICHARD III.—Reign 2 Years.

IN fourteen hundred eighty-three,
What monſter meets the eye?
Richard the third!—by fate's decree,
In battle who ſhall die.

1483. EDWARD V.—Reign 2 Months.

EDWARD the fifth, that unblown flower,
Ambition's hand laid low;
While ſtretch'd in ſleep within the tower,
Approach'd the murd'rous foe.

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IN fourteen hundred eighty-three,
What monſter meets the eye?
Richard the third!—by fate's decree,
In battle who ſhall die.

1485. HENRY VII.—Reign 24 Years.
HOUSE OF TUDOR.

IN fourteen hundred eighty-five,
On Boſworth's bloody field,
A Henry did with Richard ſtrive,
And forc'd his foe to yield.

The

The ſeventh of that name, whoſe brow
Fair England's crown adorn'd;
Her valiant ſons in death laid low,
In ſilent grief ſhe mourn'd:

Then twin'd the roſes white and red,
And fix'd their doubtful claim:
Sweet peace its bleſſed influence ſhed,
And check'd each riſing flame.

Henry VIIth's Father was Edmund, Son of Owen Tudor, by the Widow of Henry Vth. His Mother was Margaret, only child of John, Duke of Somerſet, Grandſon of John of Gaunt. He married Elizabeth, Daughter of Edward IV, and thus united the Houſes of York and Lancaſter.

1509. HENRY VIII.—Reign 37 Years.

HENRY the eighth ~~afcends~~ assumed the throne
In fifteen hundred nine;
The Pope's dread thunders ~~who~~ he alone
To limits dar'd confine.

The

The pile by ſuperſtition placed,
Whoſe dark receſs conceal'd
Mild truth—imperious Henry raſed,
And thus her doom repeal'd.

Yet he, (a cruel tyrant) knew,
To make himſelf obey'd;
To virtue falſe, to paſſion true,
No law his will delya'd.

In 1534, Henry VIIIth, procured an act to be paſſed for aboliſhing the papal authority, and introducing the reformation in England.—He forbade all intercourſe between his ſubjects and the court of Rome, and was made chief of the National Church.

1547. ED.

1547. EDWARD VI.—Reign 6 Years.

THE conſtant circuit of the ſun,
O'er fifteen centuries had run,
And forty-ſeven years;
When dreſs'd in every charm of youth,
Of virtue, innocence, and truth,
Edward the ſixth appears.

Son of Henry VIIIth, by Jane Seymour.

1553. MARY

1553. MARY.—Reign 5 Years.

WHEN fifteen centuries were told,
And ſummers fifty-three,
Fell Mary reign'd—to virtue cold,
A bigot warm was ſhe.

Forth

Forth from his cell (his chains unbound,)
Dread perſecution hies;
O'er her fair realm his whips reſound,
And curling flames ariſe.

Daughter to Henry VIIIth, by Catharine of Spain.

1558. ELIZA-

1558. ELIZABETH.—Reign 45 Years.

IN fifteen hundred fifty-eight,
With heroes compaſs'd round,
Eliza ruled the Britiſh ſtate,
Whoſe ſhores her fame reſound.

From

From the dread luſtre of her eye,
Each papiſt ſhrinks away;
The ſhades of ſuperſtition fly,
And dawns a glorious day.

On proud Iberia's fleet, her arms*
Their pointed vengeance hurl'd;
While Drake, whoſe breaſt her glory warms,
Proclaims it round the world.

Elizabeth, Daughter of Henry VIIIth, by Anne Boleyn.

* The invincible Armada deſtroyed 1588.

1603. JAMES I.—Reign 22 Years.
RACE OF STUART.

Not ſuch, the houſe of Stuart's heir;
In ſixteen hundred three,
Comes Scottiſh James, with pedant ear
From flattery never free.

In action feeble; but in words,
His proweſs he diſplays;
While echo back his duteous Lords,
Their ſapient monarch's praiſe.

Were every act eraſed that gives
To juſt contempt thy name,
Save Raleigh's death (whoſe fame ſtill lives)
That deed would mark thy ſhame.

James was Son of Mary Queen of Scots and Henry Stuart, Lord Darnley—hence the race of Stuart.

Queen Mary was Daughter of James IVth, of Scotland, and Margaret, eldeſt Daughter of Henry VIIth.

1625. CHARLES I.—Reign 24 Years.

IN ſixteen hundred twenty-five,
See Charles aſcend the throne,
In whom the dangerous maxims live
Of many, made for one.

Rouſed by oppreſſion to reſiſt,
How fall the juſt and good,
Who in their country's cauſe enliſt,
And ſeal it with their blood.

At length a wandering captive's fate,
Th'unhappy monarch ſhares;
His blood he forfeits to the ſtate,
To heaven directs his prayers.

1649 Charles I. beheaded.
Four Years Interregnum.

1653. OLIVER

1653. OLIVER CROMWELL.

IN ſixteen hundred fifty-three,
While
^ The ſtern Protector bares
His bloody arm, ~~yet~~ of liberty
~~A name reproachful wears.~~

To Aſſume the name he dares.

But conſcience ſleeps not—round his bed,
Remorſe's adders creep,
Deſpair torments his aching head,
And fear forbids his ſleep.

With iron rod five years he reign'd;
His Son awhile purſued
His ſteps, but ſoon his power reſign'd,
And lived in ſolitude.

Cromwell had uſurped the government nine years—but as protector only five.

1377. JAMES

1660. CHARLES II.—Reign 25 Years.

THE ſixteen hundred ſixtieth year,
A ſecond Charles's right
Proclaims ~~—the wanderer appears,~~ *Behold the Prince*
To bleſs his people's ſight.

Freed

Freed from ſtrife of civil war,
His pleaſures damp'd his fame;
Religion's foe and honour's ſcar,
His country's pride and ſhame.

1685. JAMES II.—Reign 3 Years.

WHEN ſixteen centuries had flown,
And eighty-five more years,
A ſecond James aſcends the throne,
And popery's ſtandard rears.

With

With perſecution arm'd, he treads
Fair freedom to the ground:
While Jeffery's baleful progreſs ſheds
Its deſolation round.

1688. WILLIAM III—Reign 14 Years.

IN ſixteen hundred eighty-eight,
The voice united of the ſtate,
Its faith to Orange ſwore.
Behold in gallant pride, the fleet
Which laid its flag at William's feet,
Tranſport him ſafe to ſhore.

THE CONSTITUTION.

THE King, the Commons, and the
Lords,
From hence (as hiſtory records)
In mutual power agreed
To wield the ſceptre of command,
And guard the laws in this bleſt land
From furious deſpots freed.

1702 ANNE—Reign 12 Years.

When

~~NOW~~ ſeventeen centuries had gone
And two more years their way;
When Anne aroſe, whoſe luſtre ſhone
With undiminiſh'd ray.

In union, Caledonia's realm,*
With England was combin'd;
A virtuous queen directs the helm,
With Marlbro's prowefs joined.

---

* Union of Scotland finally fettled in 1707.

1714. GEORGE I—Reign 13 Years.
RACE OF BRUNSWICK.

IN ſeventeen hundred and fourteen,
Succeeded Brunſwick's line;
Peace, juſtice, wiſdom, in the reign
Of George the firſt combine.

1727. GEORGE II.—Reign 33 Years.

year

~~IN~~ ſeventeen hundred twenty-ſeven,
The ſecond George's date
Of reigning, was decreed by heaven
To mark a glorious fate

For Britain—whoſe ſucceſsful arms
In different climates won
Freſh laurels—and each boſom warms,
With deeds of glory done.

Its ſtandard yet rebellion rears,
Again its hateful band,
In Stuart's cauſe embark'd, appears
To darken all the land.

Short triumph—for long ſcenes of woe,
His dreams of bliſs ſurpriſe;
His fabric of ambition low
Is laid, no more to riſe.

1760. GEORGE III.

WHEN ſeventeen centuries had paſs'd
And ſixty added years,
Great George the third, not *leaſt*, tho' *laſt*,
In Britains' love appears.

Near

Near forty years have own'd his ſway,
May heaven guard the reſt,
And in a bright unclouded ray,
His glory be confeſt.

JUNE 13, 1800.

THE END.

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BRITISH
15
87
JAN

ERRATA.

Page 23, line 7, *for* glory *read* bleſſings.
P. 43, l. 8, *for* delya'd *read* delay'd.
P. 56, l. 1, *for*
Freed from ſtrife of civil war,
read—Freed from *the* ſtrife of civil war.
P. 64, l. 1. *for*
In ſeventeen hundred twenty-ſeven,
read—*Year* ſeventeen hundred twenty-ſeven.